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Open Night at Pickering Twp. High School

On Friday night, May 9th, the Pickering District High School will hold its first Annual Open Night. These Open Nights are designed to give the public an opportunity to see the work of the students in the secondary school and the building itself. Most important of all, they give the parents an opportunity to meet the teachers who are responsible for the education of their children.

A visit to the school by any parent is a revelation. Few parents seem to realize that secondary school education in Pickering Township is no longer housed in "the little red school-house" of other years. Architectural design has so changed and improved in the past decade that it will be hard for many to recognize in the large, well-lighted, well equipped classrooms of today, the dingy class-

room of their own youth.

In each class room teachers and students will be active in the demonstration of their various subjects. The physical education department and the music department have prepared an interesting program for the auditorium. There will be two complete performances. The displays of work by the students in Home Economics, Industrial Arts, and Crafts Arts and Crafts, Typing and Science should prove most revealing to parents and the general public. In the various Academic class rooms will be projects by the students in those particular subjects related to the class work.

Education today is an expressive but essential part of our lives. Come and see it in action, and find out where some of your tax dollar is going.

The amateur is now clearing his garden of last year's weeds. That's right, give this year's a chance.

The History of Assessment and Municipal Taxation

The Assessment Act in explaining the duties of Courts of Revision, County and District Judges and the Ontario Municipal Board when determining appeals against assessment states that the assessment of similar property in the vicinity is to be one of the main guides in deciding the actual value.

It is also assumed that if industrial property or farm property is assessed for 80 per cent of its actual value that residential and commercial property shall also be assessed at 80 per cent.

Decisions have also been given that in counties where a County Assessor has been appointed that the assessment of property in one municipality may be compared with the assessment of property in another municipality of the same county. However, an assessment in the City of Hamilton cannot be compared with one in the City of Galt though the municipalities are fairly adjacent.

As explained in an earlier article, where municipalities are joined together for administrative purposes, the county costs are apportioned among the various municipalities on the basis of assessment. Some government grants are also apportioned on the basis of assessment and this particularly applied to educational grants in all townships and in villages and towns with a population of less than 2500.

The Provincial Department of Education are naturally desirous of ensuring that school grants are equitably distributed. At the same time, to ensure that a municipality which installs a proper system of values is not discriminated against, they have placed in their grant regulations a method to overcome this to some degree.

Equalization of Assessment

We have mentioned above the importance of equalized assessment to ensure a fair distribution of shared costs or government grants as between municipalities. A proper system of assessment and equalization is especially important, to the local taxpayer for on the basis of his assessment is determined not only the amount of taxes he pays to maintain county services and schools, but also the services provided by his own municipality.

He is, therefore, in the first instance concerned with the assessment of his neighbour or similar property in the municipality. The fact that his assessment is \$1500 and the tax rate is 60 mills or whether his assessment is \$3,000 and the tax rate is 30 mills does not change the actual tax dollars to be paid from \$90.00. However, he is concerned when his assessment is \$3,000 and similar value property is only assessed for \$2,500.

So equalization and proper assessment should make its start in the local municipality before it can be applied as a test against the equalization and assessment of other municipalities.

Assessors Problems

While it is not entirely possible to ensure that taxpayers shall only pay for the actual services they receive from a municipality, still some progress along this line has been made in the past few years.

A good assessor never raises the assessment because the exterior or interior of a building is well painted or decorated. Neither does he rate the value of buildings higher because of a good roof or eavtroughing or well kept lawns, flower beds, paved driveways, fences, etc. However, he should not reduce the assessment because of the lack of any of these items unless such lack has caused an actual costly physical depreciation.

He should keep in mind, however, that badly laid out buildings, lack of natural light and the poor location, etc., of a property will definitely reduce the value. He should not penalize the good citizen who improves his home by such items as hardwood flooring or mastic tile floors, fireplaces, attached oil burners, panelling, built-in cupboards, etc. While all of these items are legally assessable, yet the taxpayer whose home has these features does not receive any extra municipal service because of them and in some instances receives less.

Items which are more or less standard as plumbing, electric lighting and hot water or hot air furnaces are assessable and should be included at a fair charge. The elimination of the assessment on

50,000 Pheasants for Summer's Re-Stocking

Raised on Ontario government pheasant farms, some 50,000 young birds will be made available this summer to sportsmen's organizations and townships for distribution according to present Department of Lands and Forests plans, the Minister, Harold R. Scott, announced recently.

Approximately, allotments will permit the Lake Erie district to receive 15,000 day-old chicks and 9,000 poults. These will come from the Normandale farm. Normandale will also supply 6,000 chicks to the Lake Huron district. These will be supplemented by 9,000 chicks and 6,000 poults from Codrington to make up the district's quota. The Trent district's quota will be 2,500 chicks, and a large number of poults will be divided between that district and Quinte. The Rideau district will receive some 2,500 chicks and 500 poults.

The day-old chicks will be turned over to the distributing co-operators, the Minister explained, and retained by them for six weeks in brooders. They will then be taken afield and freed by the "gentle-release" system. Food will be set out alongside the release pens for as long as the young pheasants return in search of it, he pointed out.

He also declared that about 2,000 adult stock birds that have produced their quotas of eggs will be released in several areas. Many of these will likely resume nesting after release.

"We would like to increase the production of young birds to improve pheasant populations and hunting in Ontario," the Minister stated, "but we are limited as to space. If sportsmen associations and townships could arrange to accept more day-old chicks for rearing to release age, we could provide for increased production correspondingly in the freed space."

Christian Family Week May 11-17

The week of May 11-17 is being observed across Canada as Christian Family Week. On Sunday, May 11th, there will be special recognition in most of our churches and Sunday Schools. The Ontario Council of Christian Education is supplying a special order of worship free in quantities to all Sunday Schools, upon request.

One of the unique features of the week is a "Family Night at Home." These are days when the members of the family, both old and young, have so many appointments outside the home that there isn't as much family life as there used to be. So the suggestion is made that during this week every family should observe a Family Night at Home, when all members of the family should spend the evening together at home. A programme for such an event has been made available through the clergy.

items which are more or less frills assists in equalizing not only the assessment but also the taxes paid for the municipal services which are available for our use.

Next week's article will deal with the assessment of farm property, etc.



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HOT BISCUIT SUPPER-SANDWICH

Season to taste 1 c. minced cooked meat with grated onion, salt, pepper and condiment sauce; moisten slightly with leftover gravy or cream sauce. Mix and sift twice, then sift into a bowl, 2 c. once-sifted pastry flour (or 1 1/2 c. once-sifted hard-wheat flour), 4 tsp. Magic Baking Powder, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. dry mustard. Cut in finely 5 lb. chilled shortening. Make a well in dry ingredients and add 1/2 c. chili sauce and 1/2 c. milk; mix lightly with a fork, adding milk if necessary, to make a soft dough. Knead for 10 seconds on a lightly-floured board and divide dough into 2 equal portions. Pat one portion into a greased round 8 1/2" cake pan and spread almost to edges with meat mixture; moisten edges of dough with water. Pat second portion of dough into an 8 1/2" round and place over meat mixture; press lightly around edges to seal; score top layer deeply into 6 pie-shaped wedges. Bake in hot oven, 425°, about 20 mins. Serve hot with brown tomato sauce. Yield: 6 servings.



Local Buyers at \$22,000 Guernsey Sale

Thirty-six purchasers secured valuable foundation stock at the dispersal of the well known Glenorchy Guernsey herd, owned by the late Donald G. McAllister, Richmond Hill, which was sold on April 23rd in Richmond Hill Arena.

Prices were fairly uniform throughout with the 72 head offered bringing \$22,430 for an overall average of \$311.37 cows averaged \$372.11 bred heifers averaged \$337.13 yearlings averaged \$221. and 9 heifer calves averaged \$197.

Topping the sale and the cows was Glenorchy S.B. Poppy, a 4-year old sired by Sun-Blest Farms Grafton and out of Glenorchy Poppy 10,786M 596F. She was a very showy heifer and she went to the bid of Matt Heron, King, for \$535.00. Maplewood Farms Ltd., Maple purchased the second high cow Glenorchy Model's Glory at \$510.00. She was, out of Glenorchy May Glory 13,484M 649F one of the great production families in the sale. J. H. Crang, Newmarket paid \$500. for Glenorchy Lady Maureen a bred heifer sired by McDonald Farms Fore Nimble and out of Glenorchy Lads Sheba 10,786M 607F. This heifer was the highest selling "Nimble" daughter. There were 25 "Nimble" daughters in the sale ranging from bred heifers to baby calves and they averaged \$257.00. Mary Duncan, Whitby paid \$400.00 for Glenorchy Lady Ripple, a "Nimble" daughter to top the yearling heifers; and Douglas Start, Curries, paid \$255 for Glenorchy Lady Sade, another "Nimble" to top the heifer calves.

Douglas Sager, Odessa, a new breeder, was the largest single purchaser taking seven head,

included, in which were six cows, for a total of \$2420. Maplewood Farms Ltd., Maple, were the next largest purchasers taking six head at \$1250.

Other purchasers were: Henry Borden, King; Frank Bennett, Gormley; A. M. Brydon, Guelph; C.F.W. Burns, King; John J. Ball, York Mills; A. Bedwin, Newcastle; C. J. Bongard, Milford; W. J. Crawford and Son, Mt. Elgin; W. Crossland, Brantford; W. B. Cruikshank, Wingham; G. R. Dunn, London; Jack Fraser, Concord; Mrs. N. R. Gale, Lindsay; Wm. W. Hollinger, Pickering; W. K. Hastings, Agincourt; A. F. Hicks, Centralia; Eldon Kirkland, Lyndhurst; Mr. G. E. Lamont, Kleinburg; Roy Moyer, Stouffville; M. T. McNabb & Sons, Georgetown; Dr. Fergus O'Connor, Kingston; O. J. Osborne, Kettleby; Powell and Dorie, Inglewood; Henry Pearce, Bowmanville; R. and M. Parker, Whitby; George Richardson, St. Pauls; Roy Stewart and Son, Ailsa Craig; William Stinson, Kars; and J. E. Wilson, Garden Hill.

Egg Vote Light Fails To Carry

The provincial department of agriculture announced this week that the egg marketing scheme was defeated in a light vote. The vote was held two weeks ago. An estimated 300 voted in York County with a rough majority of two to one in favor of the scheme.

The provincial vote was: egg scheme, 7,496 for, 7,050 against; poultry meat scheme, 7,048 for, 6,568 against. A total of 33,000 votes favoring the scheme would have been necessary to pass it.

A nice spring day brings the urge to go fishing.



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